

Great Falls Historical Society  
Oral History Project

Interview with  
Mrs. Otrich Sharper Costley  
[Salome Costley]

Interview  
April 10, 1985  
By  
Janet Hofer

NORTHERN VIRGINIA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

DEED OF GIFT TO THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM OF  
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

I, Otrich Sharper Jackson Costley, do hereby  
give and grant to George Mason University Oral History Program, as a  
donation to its Northern Virginia Oral History Project, the tape recordings  
listed below. I authorize the Oral History Program of George Mason University  
to use these recordings or the summaries or transcripts of them in such a  
manner as they may determine in line with the educational and historical  
objectives of its Oral History Project.

April 10, 1985  
Date of Agreement

Otrich Sharper Jackson Costley  
Signature of Interviewee  
1044 Bellesview Road  
Street Address  
McLean Virginia 22102  
City and State

Janet E. Hofer  
Signature of Interviewer

Janet E. Hofer  
Name (please print) of interviewer

10120 Westford Drive  
Street Address

Vienna, VA 22180  
City and State

Subject of Tape Recordings McLean, Great Falls,  
Odricks Corner, Genealogy black families  
of Northern VA.

Date of Recordings April 10, 1985

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## ORAL HISTORY STATUS SHEET

893-8825

NAME OF INTERVIEWEE

Mrs Salome Otrich Costley

NAME OF INTERVIEWER

Janet Hofer

☒ Initial contact

/ /

☐ Interview☐ Deed of Gift Signed☐ Released ☐ Restricted☐ Biographical form completed☐ Interviewer's notes completed☐ Tapes labeled☐ Cassette tab removed☐ Tapes copied☒ "Thank you" note sent to interviewee☐ Catalog card made for interview tape☐ Tape abstracted☐ Tape indexed☒ Illustrative material assembled photo☐ Abstract corrected, proofed, and duplicated☐ Abstract and tape sent to Special Collections

## TRANSCRIPTION

☒ Decision to transcribe☒ yes☐ no☐ deferred☒ To transcriber☐ Audited☐ Edited☐ Sent to interviewee for corrections☐ Sent to interviewer for corrections☐ Returned☒ "Thank you" note to interviewee☐ Corrected, proofread, duplicated☐ Final copy sent to interviewee☐ Final copy sent to interviewer☐ Final copy bound, labeled☐ Final copy sent to Special Collections.

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## INFORMANTS BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

NAME Otrich Costley TODAY'S DATE 7/23/86  
 ADDRESS 1024 Belterview Road, McLean VA 22102  
 BIRTHPLACE Washington, DC DATE Sept 25, 1928 PHONE 897-5825  
 PRESENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS (if applicable) Lewis Rose Cafe - pastry  
cook, 1928-1938, 1951 Mrs Patterson Knight (Sewing) 1975,

PAST AND PRESENT ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP (Political, Social, Community, Professional)

DATE MOVED TO FAIRFAX COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ PLACES LIVED IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S NAME AND BIRTHPLACE \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S NAME AND BIRTHPLACE \_\_\_\_\_

CAN SPEAK ABOUT: COMMUNITY LIFE, SCHOOLS, POLITICS, FAMILY LIFE, CHILDHOOD, ECONOMIC  
 CHANGE, BUSINESS, WORK, FARMING, LAND DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, LEISURE, ARTS AND  
 CHURCHES, WORLD WAR I, DEPRESSION, ETC. (Circle, and add topics as needed) \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Northern Virginia Oral History Project, c/o Professor Roy Rosenzweig, Department of  
 History, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia 22030

NORTHERN VIRGINIA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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objectives of its Oral History Project.

July 23, 1986  
Date of Agreement

Signature of Interviewee

Bellview W.C.  
Street Address

W. Sean, VA  
City and State

Janet E. Hapler  
Signature of Interviewer

Name (please print) of interviewer

Street Address

City and State

Subject of Tape Recordings

Date of Recordings



Jim Tingstrum/Journal

Pleasant Grove Methodist Church, built in the 1880s by descendants of black slaves.

## McLean residents unite to restore house of worship

By ADRIAN HIGGINS

Journal staff writer

Four years ago McLean's Pleasant Grove Methodist Church stood empty, gutted and as lifeless as the adjacent graves of its 19th century founders.

The dwindling congregation closed the doors of the simple white clapboard church on Lewinsville Road in 1968, and enrolled in other area churches.

The historic building was eventually sold. By 1981, with much of its interior decayed or dismantled, the future of the once proud Queen Anne-style church looked grim.

Today, a group of resolute McLean residents, including some of the church's former congregation, has banded together to restore and preserve the structure, built as a proud house of worship by the descendants of black slaves.

As it did for more than 70 years, the church has once more brought people together in a spirit of love and brotherhood. These brethren are more diverse than those of the original parish, and include both whites and blacks from various walks of life.

Together, they agree, the church should be preserved as a historic building and as a monument to the men and women who struggled to build it.

The restoration project itself should be noticed, observers say, because it is a rare spectacle of citizen volunteers trying to preserve a part of the past in a county where developers continually mold its future.

"So much of Fairfax County is being erased," said Hugh Jacobsen, an architect who donated work during the early stages of restoration.

"This is a stroke for the little man," he said.

Much of the appeal of the church is its attractive design and setting overlooking a tree-bordered cemetery. It exudes rural charm. It sits next to Lewinsville Road, a two-lane highway used by commuters from the Reston area, and in the shadow of towering offices at Tysons Corner a mile to the southeast.

Many of the commuters who pass the church each day are cheered by it and have joined the fast growing ranks of the Friends of Pleasant Grove, the non-profit citizens group established to save the structure.

The one-room church includes wooden, "fish-scale" shingles on its front and back walls, stained-glass and clear windows, and an ornate belfry and steeple.

"It speaks a vocabulary that is at once simple and profound," Jacobsen said. "You know it's a church, not a pickle factory, which is a problem of identity we have with modern ecclesiastical design."

"That church was built right across the United States in one form or another," he said.

The restoration effort "is a wonderful thing," said Ottrich S. Costley, whose grandfather Samuel Sharp-er and his two sons helped found the church in the

Please see CHURCH, A5

FFV Journal 9/6/85

# McLean residents renovate church

## CHURCH from A1

1880s. Costley, who will be 85 later this month, fondly recalls the days when her father would hook up his horses to the family carriage, and take his daughters to the church for Sunday school.

"We had just a lovely fellowship and a lovely spirit in there," she said.

She lives a mile and a half from the church in one of two areas in the McLean area settled by freed blacks in the 19th century. Her community was founded by Samuel Sharper's grandfather, a freed slave, in 1825.

Samuel Sharper and his sons and almost 40 other blacks in 1882 began efforts to build the church, but because they had little money it was not until 1895 — three years after Sharper's death — that the cornerstone on the church was laid.

His grave was the first dug in the cemetery, which is still neatly tended by former church members. Costley, twice widowed, has two husbands buried in the cemetery, as well as many cousins and other relatives.

In 1968, faced with mounting operating expenses and a dwindling, aging congregation, church members decided to close the church and



Sign in front of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church.

merge with a predominantly white Methodist congregation in the area. Pleasant Grove was leased to another small Methodist congregation for a period in the 1970s.

In 1979 it was sold to a woman who disposed of many of the

church's fittings, including the pews and organ. A year later it was sold to an Alexandria couple who had hoped to convert it to a home. The plan never worked out, the church languished further, and the couple donated the dilapidated structure to Friends of Pleasant Grove in 1981.

The non-profit organization was formed to save the church by Joan Jewett, 55, who lives in a 19th century farmhouse on the other side of Lewinsville Road, and Frances Moore, 71, a member of the original congregation who, like Costley, is a grandchild of Samuel Sharper.

Membership in the restoration group has climbed from a handful in 1981 to nearly 400 today. Each May the group holds a "Pleasant Grove Day," when artists and other exhibitors sell their works at stalls in the church while an army of volunteers works on the structure and grounds.

Most of the restoration has been done by a Christopher Smith, a local contractor. The firm has also done some restoration work without pay, and Smith's father, Harden, glued together the dismembered church doors and window frames, Jewett said.

Local architect Will Webber has also donated professional services in

preparing blueprints for the restoration, she said.

Hours of work have already gone into the project, which she said is about half finished. So far, asbestos siding that covered the wood clapboard has been removed, the wood painted, the steeple roofing repaired, the windows and doors fixed, and a new plywood sub-floor constructed. Using a grant from the McLean Citizens Foundation, the next major project is to lay a pine floor.

About \$40,000 has been raised so far, and another \$20,000 will be needed to finish the job. Inside walls must be plastered, and the church rewired.

The group has no definite plans for the church's eventual use. Some hope homes will be built on adjacent land earmarked for development and that Pleasant Grove will be used as a community center by those residents, as well as the McLean community in general. The restored building would be ideal for wedding ceremonies and music recitals, Jewett said, and one idea is to convert the cellar into a black history museum.

"The church stands out as very special," said Jewett. "It's one of the few old things left."

GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
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By Janet Hofer  
April 10, 1985

JH: I'm talking with Mrs. Otrich Costley this morning, and she was just telling me how much work she got done before I even got here. And you iron your sheets?

OSC: Sure, I iron my sheets and my pillow case, ironed one tea towel, ironed one cotton blouse that wasn't, you know, polyester. And I ironed something, I don't know what it is, my niece sent me a long time ago. It's by a good company but it's the hardest thing to iron you ever saw in the very beginning. You have to iron it every time. And then I had two real nice blouses, you know, that have polyester. I just touched one of them up. I didn't have to touch the other one.

JH: Now you were just telling me before I turned on the recorder that you will be eighty-five on--what's your birthday?

OSC: The twenty-fifth day of September.

JH: You were born in 1900?

OSC: That's right.

JH: And where were you born?

OSC: I was born in Washington. Mama showed me the place when we were going to a circle when I was eighteen. It was 8th Street N.E. I was born in a house. You know, people had--

JH: They didn't have hospitals and so on.

OSC: Well, they had, you know what they used.

JH: A midwife?

OSC: A midwife, yes.

JH: Did your mother tell you who the midwife was?



OSC: No. No, I didn't know that.

JH: And name your parents for me, if you would.

OSC: Well, my father was Frederick Douglass Sharper and my mother was Salome Boston before she was married and was Salome Boston Sharper.

JH: And your mother's parents were?

OSC: My mother's parents: William H. Boston and her mother was Henrietta Carter Boston.

JH: Now you were just telling me that your grandmother's father was Jim Jackson.

OSC: Jim Jackson, yes.

JH: Now which Jim Jackson was that?

OSC: That was General Jim Jackson and Colonel Eglin owned us girls.

JH: Oh, really?

OSC: Oh, sure, he owned us, owned us as his cousins.

JH: Now this was not the Jim Jackson who was killed in Alexandria during the Civil War?

OSC: That's right.

JH: The same one?

OSC: The same one, that Jim Jackson, and my<sup>great-</sup>grandmother was right there and seen him killed.

JH: Saw him killed?

OSC: Yes.

JH: And she was his daughter?

OSC: No, my great-grandmother was the mother of Henrietta.

JH: So she was there in Alexandria?

OSC: Yes.

JH: Were there any other children by Jim Jackson?

OSC: No, other than his white children. All I knew was I've heard Grandmother talk about Amelia and there was one, Carrie Helen, she didn't like. And after I got grown I asked Mama, I said, "Mama, why does Grandmother never like Carrie Helen?"

She said, "Because her daddy left her an acre of ground and a house and Carrie Helen beat her out of it." And I know where the house is. It's remodeled now.

JH: Is it in Great Falls?

OSC: No, it's on old 193.

JH: On Georgetown Pike?

OSC: Do you know where Bulls Neck Hill is?

JH: Yes.

OSC: You know, in the bottom it's so low and then you come on up?

JH: Yes.

OSC: The house is sitting right on the left-hand side.

JH: On 193?

OSC: On 193. It's been remodeled. I don't know what it was at the time.

JH: But that was left to your--

OSC: It was left to my grandmother. So that's what I asked my mother. I asked her why she didn't like Carrie Helen and she said Carrie Helen beat her out of it.

JH: Was Carrie Helen Jim Jackson's daughter?

OSC: Yes. Now I would like to know which one was Colonel Eglin's mother.

JH: Okay, I can tell you who that was. She was Julia Thomas, Julia Jackson Thomas. And Julia Jackson was Richard Jackson's daughter and Richard was Jim's father, Jim Jackson's father. So it was Richard, Jim, Julia, and then it would have been one more generation and then Colonel Eglin. I left one out in between

JH: because one of the daughters of the Thomases, Julia Jackson, married Judge Henry Thomas. One of their daughters married an Eglin and Colonel Eglin was their son.

OSC: Is that where it come in?

JH: Yes. And you were cousins?

OSC: That's what he told everybody. I wouldn't have known it but he told everybody.

JH: Well, he must have found some records.

OSC: He owned my mother and he went to my mother some years ago before she got so she couldn't travel around and wanted her to come down to his house one Sunday.

JH: When you're saying "owning" you mean recognizing the relationship?

OSC: Yes.

JH: Because that sounds like a long time ago when people owned each other. You mean owned up?

OSC: Yes, you know, recognize. In other words, he recognized us. And he went to my mother and wanted my mother to come down there one Sunday. He wanted her to meet the family. He was having the family there, but my mother didn't go because it was a rainy day and Papa didn't want to go out.

JH: How many years ago would that have been?

OSC: Oh, I couldn't say. Mother'll be dead twenty-two years this year.

JH: Colonel Eglin's been gone pretty long.

OSC: Yes, he was gone before Mother. Yes, I know he went before Mother. I've got the account when he died. I keep all those in a diary. I cut them out and I put them in a diary.

JH: Oh, I would enjoy looking at that sometime.

OSC: All right. I don't think I can get it today because I've got to look through it.

JH: Okay, you were born in Washington. Why was your family in Washington? Was your father working?

OSC: I think he did work at the time. I don't know what made them go to Washington. He was married in Washington and maybe didn't come out. But when I knew anything, I was in Virginia.

JH: They probably moved out here fairly soon then.

OSC: Yes, because I don't know a thing about it.

JH: And where in this area did you settle?

OSC: My daddy carried Mother in his community over here on the old property that his great-granddaddy bought.

JH: And that was Daniel Sharper?

OSC: Daniel Sharper. Daniel Sharper and Molly Sharper were Sammy Sharper's grandparents. Sammy Sharper's mother was Mary Courtney Sharper and Daniel Sharper was her father. So that made him my grandfather.

JH: Now you told me that Daniel Sharper, the first Daniel Sharper, was a free man.

OSC: Well, the way I understand it, I was told this: the way I got it, he came from the James Lee section, the James River. Well, later I found out--now that could be anywhere, but he came from Jefferson County. Well now, from Fairfax I have something that they said he was a slave of a Lindsay and Lindsay gave him the privilege to go and work for his freedom. And I heard through the family that he came in the early 1800's, he came in Fairfax. Well, I wondered why they had to get it at Fairfax that he was a slave, but I understood later that any Negro that come to another county, he had to register or else they'd think he was a runaway slave. Now that's what I heard.

JH: I believe that's right.

OSC: I think that sounds right.

JH: I think there's a Register of Negroes, and whether they were free or not, they just had to check in, supposedly once a year, but sometimes they didn't.

OSC: But anyhow, that's the way I understood that they got it, that he had been a slave. Our family always mentioned--the way we got it that he came from the James River section as a free man. Well, he did. Now the way I found he was from Jefferson County was through a little nephew of my husband and he is a supervisor of the Archives building and he's sent me a lot of stuff. And that's the way I found out that he came from Jefferson County. All we knew was James River, that's all we knew until then.

JH: Did he marry up here?

OSC: I don't know whether he brought his family here or not, but it mentions that his wife and his children were free. I have that.

JH: And what was his wife's name? You told me.

OSC: Molly.

JH: Molly Sharper. You don't know her maiden name?

OSC: No, I never knew that. All I knew was Molly Sharper.

JH: I told you about finding his name and that he worked on what is called Cornwell Farm over here on Georgetown Pike.

OSC: Is that right?

JH: His name is listed in kind of a ledger that was kept on expenses.

OSC: How late was that?

JH: That was in the 1820's and I promised you I'd get a copy of that for you. I haven't been back to the courthouse but I will get you a copy. But it says, "D. Sharper, payment made for work on the barn or part of the house." And that was a Jackson property.

OSC: Well, look, I have a piece of paper here that I think Mr. Dern had given to Alvin Brown. Alvin Brown's a first cousin of mine, my father's oldest sister's

OSC: daughter, and he died a few years ago.

JH: Alvin Brown did?

OSC: Oh, yes.

JH: Oh, I didn't know that.

OSC: Did you know him?

JH: No, but he's someone I had wanted to interview. I am too late.

OSC: You're too late for that. Alvin Brown died--how long has he been dead?

JH: I don't know. Someone said he'd know a lot about Great Falls.

OSC: Well, he would. I imagine he would.

JH: And where did the Browns come from? There are Browns over by me.

OSC: Well, now, I don't know. I don't know where his daddy came from. I know what my mother told me that he built his house and never married until he had his house to take his wife to. And that house is still over on the hill. Now you passed it when you came, that little sharp curve.

JH: Is it the big farmhouse?

OSC: The big white house on the hill and before you get to it, there's an old barn.

JH: And that was his?

OSC: That was Alvin Brown's.

JH: And he built that house?

OSC: I don't know whether he built it or whether somebody--now my Uncle Henry might have built it, I don't know, because my Uncle Henry was a carpenter.

JH: And was that Henry Brown?

OSC: No, Henry Sharper, one of my daddy's brothers. Now my daddy was one of eleven children and he was the baby of the eleven. And he died at eighty-six and he had one that outlived him and that was his youngest sister. But there was a brother between him and the youngest sister that died before.

JH: Can you name his brothers and sisters?

OSC: Oh, my lord, yes.

JH: Tell me their names.

OSC: One of them was named, the oldest one, I guess he was named for his father.

They called him Lot but I see his name was Samuel Lot. You see, Grandfather's name was Samuel Lot Sharper. And his name was Samuel Lot and then there was Henry. He was named Louis Henry. He was the one that was a carpenter. He also taught school here. He taught my mother. Then there was John Dixon and there was William <sup>Souford</sup> Stafford, James Howard.

JH: Lots of boys.

OSC: Seven. There was Mary Sharper, who was Mary Courtney. She was named after Grandfather's mother, Mary Courtney. Let me see, who was next to her? I think Virginia. She didn't have but one name. Virginia was next to her and then there was Annie Maria.. She was named for her mother because her mother was named Annie Maria. Then there was Margaret Elizabeth.

JH: And did most of them leave this area?

OSC: No.

JH: They all stayed here?

OSC: All of them lived here. Aunt Annie lived there, Aunt Virginia lived here.

JH: You're pointing toward Old Dominion.

OSC: Right here, the house next door.

JH: Right next door. I noticed the barn back here. Is that to an older piece of property?

OSC: No, that was built to have a chicken house and a chicken never went in it.  
(laughter) I showed you where Aunt Mary lived and Aunt Margaret's husband was a Lucas.

JH: There was a Lucas who taught school one time in this area, I know on some information about the School Board.

OSC: A Lucas?

JH: I believe so, very early though. You might not have known about them. Now where did you go to school in this area?

OSC: I did not go to school in this area until I was nearly sixteen years old. The Negroes had no place to go to school when I grew up down in the lower part of McLean. And a lady by the name of Priscilla Payne; she married Richard Payne. I don't know where she came from, maybe Washington. She was highly educated and the Negroes had no place to go to school and she opened up her house and taught. And I'll be frank with you, some winters, not many, but some winters, my daddy wasn't able to pay for me to go to school. My father moved on his place on Spring Hill Road over near Route 7. There's everything on there now. He sold it, you know. He sold several lots and there were little ramblers built on it before he left over here.

JH: And you were telling me on the phone the year you moved. You remember moving to that location.

OSC: March 6, 1916. I'll never forget that.

JH: 1916, you were fifteen years old.

OSC: Almost sixteen years.

JH: And where did you move from to that location?

OSC: I can't think of the name of the road because they didn't have the names then but you know where St. Johns Church is?

JH: Yes.

OSC: Well, this side of St. Johns Church there was a little road come to it with a house on the left-hand side and this road came in and bent around. And we lived behind the property where St. Johns Church is on. But that was a large piece of property where St. Johns Church is. I'm talking down on Old Dominion,



OSC: St. Johns Episcopal. That's where I lived, back in there.

JH: And what did your father do? Did he farm?

OSC: Well, my daddy did a little bit of everything to make a living. He done trucking, of course, and sometimes he had a beautiful team that he got, those two horses. His daddy had a horse and his mother allowed him to breed a horse--she had two horses--until his daddy stopped. They wasn't really work horses but they worked. His daddy worked them too but they were more like what you use for riding horses. And one was named Pride, who was made before I was in September, and another, the male was named Derby and he was made before my sister was born in June.

JH: You even keep track of the horses. (laughter)

OSC: Well, I'll tell you I had little things that allowed me to know it, you know.

JH: So did your mother teach you at home, teach you to read and write, since you didn't go to school?

OSC: No, what I got I got down there. My daddy taught me until I was eight because they kept me home until my sister was six so we could go together. But you see, there were times that I couldn't go to school down there. It was right after I got older and I could do a whole lot of studying myself. And my sister's brain was something else! She was much smarter than I was.

JH: She was younger than you?

OSC: Yes. There wasn't but one thing that she wasn't good on and that was mathematics and that was my favorite subject.

JH: And you could do that?

OSC: Oh, lord, <sup>few</sup> <sup>I</sup> a/years before/built this house--I can't do it now--we were planning on building a three-story house out of tile. I'd sit down and measure the house, the size of one. I told Ep just about everything that was supposed to go in that house. And my father-in-law, who was Richard Jackson--Richard

OSC: Jackson was a schoolteacher.

JH: Oh, I remember reading about him.

OSC: Richard Jackson was a schoolteacher, but they've got something wrong in the history. You know, I've got a book here on free Negroes and I've got this history, but they make mistakes in that history.

JH: You should let them know. Where are the mistakes?

OSC: His daddy was named John Jackson and they've got it in there that Richard Jackson was a teacher and what name did they call the other man who was so proud of his son for being a teacher? It's mixed up. I guess you've heard also about, they called him "Billy West" but William West was his name. You've heard of him? He was a schoolteacher, too.

JH: Yes, I've read his interview. He was a teacher at Ardicks Corner.

OSC: Yes, he taught at Odricks Corner. And I read later that Richard Jackson had taught at Chesterbrook a while. That's what I heard.

JH: Chesterbrook was a Negro school or not?

OSC: Yes.

JH: Now I understand--did you know Deacon Joe Ellis?

OSC: I never knew them. I never knew too much about them.

JH: Well, he told me about a log school on Utterback Store Road for black children. Did you know there was one there?

OSC: No.

JH: That would be a little after your time for being in school and you were over in the other end of McLean. Then there was a school in the Forestville area or Great Falls area for black children. Did you ever know of that location?

OSC: No, I didn't know.

JH: You just didn't live here, did you?

OSC: You know, I never come in contact with those people up there, but let me see

OSC: what I've got here. Do you get the Fairfax Chronicle?

JH: Yes.

OSC: Well, you've seen, I guess, about the school at Falls Church?

JH: The school at Falls Church, yes, I read about that.

OSC: My minister, who was my minister for twenty years, his picture was in there and his wife's picture and Sam Merrick, and a lot of people.

JH: People that you know or did know?

OSC: Yes. Mary Monaghan and them gave me that. I don't get it but I want to put in for it.

JH: You know how you do that? You just call up and get your name on the list. It's free.

OSC: I heard that. There's two other people I want to get on that list. And I seen that you could get other copies of that if I wanted to. I may call and just see if I can get copies of this for some other people.

JH: If you can identify some of the people in the picture, you know, that would be nice.

OSC: Well, I can.

JH: Some people might not know who they are.

OSC: I can identify them. I can identify the Rev. Wilson and his wife, Ethel Lee. That was way back when they were young. Yes, because Rev. Wilson did the-- he was with us twenty years and he died in '59.

JH: So after you moved to the location on Spring Hill Road--

OSC: Then I went to school at Odricks Corner. Then I was eighteen years old when I came out of that school. And you know, there was no work around here for-- in my day they wouldn't let Negroes work, you know, these people. So he didn't want me to do this.

JH: He didn't want you doing maid work?

OSC: Yes, but not heavy work. But anyhow, my mother went in to Washington and worked and him and my mother sent my sister to high school. She got to high school.

JH: Where was the high school?

OSC: In Washington because there wasn't no high school out here until they built the Luther Jackson one. But I don't know, I was very lucky. I was gifted. From the time I can remember, I could just see a piece of anything, I was twisting and trying to make things. You wouldn't believe it.

JH: You can sew then?

OSC: Oh, have I sewed! I don't do too much of it now because I'm old but I do what I want to do for myself. But anyhow, they used to use colored paper when I was a girl. Things were wrapped in colored paper and you'd get colored cord. I don't know why Mama thought that it wasn't as dangerous for me to use pins. I could swallow it as well as a needle. She wouldn't let me have a needle. And I would set--you wouldn't believe this--and pleat paper in little pleats and tie that cord and twist it and twist it and put it through there.

JH: Make designs?

OSC: Make dresses, make little paper dresses, oh, yes.

JH: Before you ever learned to use the sewing machine then?

OSC: Yes. And one day my sister laughed about it. Mama had gone to town. I don't know how old I was then. And Geneva said, "Come here, Otrich, I want to show you how to sew on this sewing machine." You know, it was an old-fashioned sewing machine.

JH: Pedal?

OSC: Yes. My grandmother gave it to my mother when she was seventeen and Geneva said, "I wanted to laugh and couldn't because you had been using the machine

OSC: already. (laughter) Oh, boy! I really wanted to learn but I have sewed.

Have you ever heard of a Mrs. Patterson Knight?

JH: No.

OSC: You never?

JH: No, where does she live?

OSC: She lives on, oh, Pitt Lane.

JH: You see, I'm not from the McLean area. No, I'm from over between Vienna and Reston.

OSC: Oh, I see, but I thought maybe you would hear her. She's in horticulture and she was the president of the garden club at Great Falls for a while and later she was president of the State of Virginia Garden Club. Well, I talked with her last night--I called her, and she said she was going away. And I said, "Are you still the president?" And she said, "No, not now but I still go around and judge." She judges. I worked for her for a while and when I worked for her while she was judge, she went as far as Philadelphia judging shows. That's the reason I wondered if you knew her.

JH: No, but I'm just not a local resident.

OSC: I understand. Now I don't know what I was going to say to you.

JH: Well, if we can go on about your life. Okay, you were eighteen when--how did World War I affect your family? Was any of your family involved?

OSC: Let me see, I had some relatives in that and I had a boyfriend in that. This is when this picture was taken of my father during World War I. He had to register, what was it? Eighteen to forty-five, wasn't it? I think it was, but he wasn't called in. He had to register, yes. I think he registered in '18 and the war stopped in '19. Yes, the Armistice was signed in '19. No, it was signed in '18 and he came home in '19.

JH: Do you remember the celebration at the end of the war? Was there a lot of--

OSC: Not too much.

JH: Was there a parade in Washington?

OSC: There was a parade in Washington because I went to that parade.

JH: You did?

OSC: Yes, because, you know, I'm not a parade person. I don't like to get into a great big crowd and the first parade I was ever in I was twelve years old and my daddy went to see the Grand Army parade. I don't know why he didn't take my sister. My sister never said, you know, there wasn't nothing about it but he and I went. And the reason he went, he had a first cousin that had been in that army, I think in the Navy or something, and he was one of the Footes, Frank Foote.

JH: So you were cousins to the Footes?

OSC: Frank Foote and them, the people that sold that place were first cousins to my daddy. Their mother was my Grandmother Sharper's sister.

JH: The Footes' mother?

OSC: Yes, she was her sister. There were three sisters, no, there were four.

JH: So one married a Foote and one married a Sharper.

OSC: One married an Extrich. I can't call that name. Where did I see that last night somewhere that he was a free man. He's buried over at Pleasant Grove. And Helen never married, the mother of my grandmother. She never married. She was always a Carter. She never married.

JH: Her father was a Carter then?

OSC: Helen's father was a Carter, all of them. Wait, let me get away from here. I'm wrong. Their mother's father was a Carter.

JH: And they took that name.

OSC: Listen, Kizzia was an Indian woman. Did I tell you--no, I didn't tell you. That was the lady that was here yesterday getting stuff and I told her that

OSC: that Great Falls Gazette had a write-up in there that had proved what my Grandmother Boston had told me. Kizzia owned where Old Court House Road is and 193. She owned in there. She owned plenty of ground, I understand. Fairfax came and built a courthouse on the ground and she burned it down. Now my Grandmother Boston told me that and I understand they built the second one and she burned that one down. Well, in Fairfax Gazette, I guess it has been a year ago and I don't know why I let that paper get away without cutting it out but this lady that was here yesterday trying to get me something down in McLean said she could get that. But it said about a new building that's built there now and said Fairfax Courthouse, "they have built a courthouse there and the Indian hostages burned it down." So it come out just--and she was the one that burned it down, that's the way I heard it.

JH: Because it was on her property?

OSC: On her property and they were taking advantage of her. You know they were taking advantage of the Indians.

JH: Did she have a last name?

OSC: Her name was either Hatton or Patton. I've got the two names mixed up. Hatton or Patton, and she bought--you're getting a lot here now if that's going to tell you. She bought Carter as a slave to work. She got mad with him and she fired him. I mean, she sold him. I heard that she bought him again and sold him. The next time she bought him in, he was her husband and that's where we were descended from. We were free people descended from that Carter. Now where--I do know how the Sharpers were freed though through that man freeing himself.

JH: Now how about the Bostons?

OSC: I understand through an old first cousin of mine--she's dead now. She knew more about--

JH: What was her name?

OSC: Grandfather's mother's name was Hannah Williams before she was married, and then she married a Turner but my mother told me--we were in a doctor's office in Washington one day. Mama got so she didn't like to go to town by herself and I went with her. And his office. . . .

End Side 1, Begin Side 2

OSC: His office was off New Hampshire Avenue right off of F Street. There's a little circle right in there, and I was sitting where I could see someone coming through the circle. And I said to Mama, "Mama, look at that man."

And Mama said, "Look at what man?"

I said, "Look at that man coming through the circle. That man looks more like Grandpap than either one of his boys."

So we sat there and the man came in. He wasn't built like Grandpap. He was sort of short. Grandpap was tall.

JH: Which grandfather?

OSC: Boston I'm talking about. So when he came in, Dr. Dumar opened his office door and said, "Come on in, Mr. Boston." So Mama looked at me and I looked at her. So when Boston came out and we went in, he said to Mama, "Mrs. Sharper, I knew you were sitting out there but Mr. Boston had an appointment." You see Mama didn't. Mr. Boston had an appointment. He says, "He's from Maryland." So when we left the place, we were walking up F Street going to catch the car at 14th and Mama said, "Ostrich, you know I never talked a whole lot of stuff to you children." She didn't. And she said, "But you know you can say what you want, that man is kin to Papa." She says, "Papa said that his mother had him out of wedlock and the man was light, she was dark, and his parents fought them getting married. So later years she married a Turner, so all of Grandpa's sisters and brothers were half-brothers and -sisters." And Mama told me when



OSC: Uncle Hort, Grandfather's brother, Mama said Uncle Hort came and told him that his mother was dead and Grandpap was paying for his property. And he said, "Hort, I'm sorry I don't have any money to help you bury Mother. But if you'll bury Mother, I'll sign the place over to you." He had bought a piece of ground and had had a house put on it for his mother, Grandfather did. I don't know, Grandfather had several half-brothers and -sisters.

JH: So was the light man a Boston?

OSC: He was a Boston. He was Grandfather's father. Now there's some people in the family that want to say their daddy said that he was white. Grandmama said Grandfather never said anybody said he was white; he was light. They said that the lightness was misunderstood, that's all what it was. He was a light man, that's what Mama told me.

JH: He might have been part white.

OSC: He could have been, he could have been part white, but this man was the color of my granddaddy, that I saw. The color of him, looks, oh, he was the spit image of him.

JH: And you didn't ever--

OSC: No. Well, you see, he went in and talked with Dr. Dumar and when he came out he went straight on and we were called in. I don't think Mama would have talked to him.

JH: Well, that would have been interesting though.

OSC: Yes.

JH: What year were you married and how did you meet your husband?

OSC: I married in 1921.

JH: You were twenty-one years old?

OSC: I was near twenty-one. I was married the 25th of December 1921, and snow!

JH: Oh, Christmas Day!

OSC: 25th of February. And snow on the ground, so deep!

JH: Where were you married?

OSC: In Washington.

JH: Did you live in Washington for a while?

OSC: Not in the first beginning. I moved out here. I never went into Washington until 1924. Work was getting--my husband had a job working with a plumber and in the wintertime he didn't have work. So he had a brother-in-law that got him a job in a very nice apartment building as a janitor and we had two rooms and kitchen and bath apartment. And we had all four windows in the basement section, but we had all four windows.

JH: What part of Washington?

OSC: 16th and F, the Ambassador Apartments. I lived in Washington I guess quite a few years. Then later we lived in a rented apartment but in '32 my husband got His mother died at the same time. So then we came back out here and we lived continuously out here.

JH: What kind of work did he do out here then?

OSC: He was working at the time at this Chestnut Farm Dairy.

JH: And was that over in Maryland?

OSC: No, it was 26th and M. They had a great big place there at 26th and M. They just went over in Maryland way after my husband died.

JH: You were telling me earlier that you had three children but none of them--

OSC: Yes, three children, but none of them lived, two boys and a girl.

JH: And you married your first cousin?

OSC: Yes, he was my first cousin on my daddy's side.

JH: And his full name was?

OSC: Mott Dulaney Jackson. His first name was Mott, his middle name was Dulaney. He was named for a Ball. Have you ever been out there at Dulaney Drive?

JH: Yes. I know the three family names. Mott's another name in the area.

OSC: Yes, but the Ball was named Mottram Dulaney Ball when my grandmother, right there, sent word to his mother to name him. But she didn't get the Mottram. She just had Mott, so that's what his name was, Mott Dulaney.

JH: Now you were married a second time. Is that why your name is Costley?

OSC: Yes. My first husband, we would have been married near thirty-seven years. It would have been thirty-seven years in February and he died in December. So then nearly eight years later I remarried.

JH: What was your second husband's name?

OSC: Costley. His name was Cornelius Costley.

JH: Now you said your first husband's father was Richard Jackson, and he was a teacher here in Great Falls.

OSC: Not in Great Falls. He taught in Ardwick Corners and in Chesterbook, I learned later. But during World War I he went in to Washington and got a job in the Government. He worked in the Government until he died--no, not until he died. He retired in '37 and he died in '38. He died the 22nd of March 1938.

JH: What was Richard Jackson's wife's name?

OSC: Virginia Sharper.

JH: And you said Richard Jackson's father was named John?

OSC: John and his mother was named Arianna. I've got my place named Arianna.

JH: Do you know Arianna's maiden name?

OSC: Johnson.

JH: Was John Jackson a blacksmith, do you know? I ran across that.

OSC: I never heard it. I don't know what he did.

JH: Was he a free man?

OSC: I guess he was.

JH: And where did he live? He lived kind of in this area, didn't he?

OSC: He lived right there. He owned all this over thirteen acres.

JH: Right here on Belle View Road on the old thirteen. Now when do you think he bought that or received that or anything like that?

OSC: I've got that, too.

JH: Do you think he was ever a part or perhaps his family had been owned by the Jacksons, any of the Jacksons?

OSC: I don't know. I never heard anything about it.

JH: The name, you see, John Jackson, is one of the first white Jacksons who settled in this area.

OSC: I just don't know. I know his wife came from Maryland but I don't know where he came from. I never heard things.

JH: Now that is the deed?

OSC: Yes, this is the deed. I want to see when he bought it.

JH: 1905.

OSC: Yes, but that's not it. That's when it went back to Richard T. Jackson. When the old man was sick, he was sick so long he was sort of in debt and Richard Jackson had to--

JH: Pay the taxes?

OSC: Well, no, he was in debt and he had to pay the man.

(Interruption)

". . . adjoining the land of Nichols Dawson and areas of the late Samuel Sharper, deceased and others and situated on Rocky Run and on the north side of the county road leading from Old Union or Bethel Church through the land formerly owned by the late Thomas J.--" you see, Thomas J. Carper--oh, I see, "through the land owned by the late Thomas J. Carper to the Georgetown Pike and Leesburg or Falls Ridge Turnpike." Here it is: "Conveyed by William H.

OSC: Thompson and Lucy A. Thompson, his wife, for the late John Jackson by deed dated February 5, 1879." Now that's what I wanted. "And recorded on April 20, 1891 in Libro K No. 5."

JH: These are the land records. Folio 354355, the Land Records of Fairfax County. "Conveyed subject to the right of dower of the widow of John Jackson and to the one-half undivided interest in the said land."

OSC: Richard Jackson had to go and do something to save the land. I'm not sure now but I think that goes off to Leigh up here that had been the doctor. Yes, I think that's who it was and they were so much in debt. And Richard Jackson having a bunch of children to rear and everything, he borrowed money to buy this place in. Understand? That's the reason you see where it's made to Richard Jackson, and it was made to him this ninth day of November 1905.

JH: Then how were you able to have some of the land? Did you inherit it?

OSC: My husband was Richard Jackson's son and that's the way he got this.

JH: My goodness, this is a wealth of genealogy, just wonderful. Let's move on in your life. You moved back out here. World War II came upon the area. What did your husband do at that time?

OSC: World War II? He was working <sup>at</sup> Chestnut Farm Dairy.

JH: Did he work there till he retired?

OSC: He worked there until he died. He was supposed to retire in August and he died in December before.

JH: What year is this?

OSC: He died in '57, December 11, 1957.

JH: That was Mr. Jackson?

OSC: Yes.

JH: What did you do after you became a widow?

OSC: I was working for Mrs. Patteson Knight.

JH: In McLean?

OSC: If it wasn't for woods, I could walk right there.

JH: Did she live on Georgetown Pike?

OSC: She lived right off of Georgetown Pike on Pitts Lane. And I worked there.

JH: Did you do the housekeeping for her?

OSC: I cleaned, I cleaned two days and sewed the other ones. And I worked for her and her husband was so ill, and then I went in the hospital for an operation in '70. And then I didn't go back there to work. You see, I had married again.

JH: Mr. Costley?

OSC: Yes.

JH: How did you meet Mr. Costley, in church?

OSC: I knew him all my life.

JH: Oh, you'd known him all your life?

OSC: Yes, because he belonged to Gunnels Chapel Church when we were living in the north part of McLean and my mother was a member of Gunnel and I went to the Sunday School there.

JH: Tell me a little more about that church. You were telling me about Richard Gunnel, was it?

OSC: No, Robert Gunnel. Robert Gunnel gave the property for the church.

JH: And he owned that property?

OSC: He owned the land there. He owned quite a bit of land in there. Now I don't know--Robert Gunnel must have had a daughter that married a Paine because he had children that were named Paine. I don't know how this happened. He must have been a great-uncle or something to Mama's half-sister. Grandfather Boston married--did I tell you that before?

JH: Which one?

OSC: Boston married Eliza Paine.

JH: I don't believe you mentioned that.

OSC: Eliza Paine and then she died, and when she died there was one daughter by the name of Ida. And all of Grandfather and Grandmother's children--my grandmother now--were very fond of their half-sister. So their sister Ida's family, she called them aunt and uncle and the rest of them did, too. And some years ago, you know, McLean had a history book--they made it several times, and in it it said that the Gunnell family gave the property for the Negro church. And I met a man that I knew very well that we were very friendly with, a white fellow. His name was in that book but he said he had nothing to do with this and I told him--met him down at the store one day. He was a nice little guy. He died not long ago. I said to him, "Look, have you ever heard of a Negro calling a white man 'uncle?'" (laughter)

He said, "No, I never did."

I said, "Well, that Gunnell my mother called 'Uncle Robert Gunnell' so that is a Negro man, not no white man." (laughter)

But you know one thing now, not meaning any harm but facts is facts, don't you think that it was a most ignorant thing for the white people to want to call Negroes "uncle" and "aunt?"

JH: Yes.

OSC: Don't you think that was ignorant? They looked upon the Negroes as being ignorant and dumb but that was the most dumbest thing. A lady wanted to call me about five or six years ago "aunt." I said, "Oh, no, you don't." (laughter)

JH: I'm not your aunt, huh?

OSC: I said, "My name is Otrich. You can call me Otrich. But they did it, the

OSC: older people rather than say Mr. or Mrs.

JH: Oh, instead of using Mr. and Mrs.

OSC: Instead of using Mr. and Mrs., they called them aunt and uncle. I've looked over that since I got grown. I never paid any attention to it when I was a kid. I think that was the most ignorant thing that ever was.

JH: Lack of respect.

OSC: Yes, ignorant. Well, lack of respect for themselves. Why would you want to call an old black woman "aunt?"

JH: But you hear people say they used it as a form of respect.

OSC: Yes, but it wasn't. That wasn't no respect. They was just ignorant.

JH: What kind of situations were you ever in, you know, when there was segregation? Did you have many problems?

OSC: No, I never had any problems. Let me tell you one thing. Here goes 193, I'll say. The little road where we went back to our place, there was a house sitting right here, white family, Sheltons. He had a daughter that was from August until September older than I. They called her "Sis," we called her "Sis." Her name, as far as I know, was Christina. Maybe she had the name Elizabeth too because in later years she died and it hurt me like everything. I didn't know the girl was dead until she was buried and she was listed as Elizabeth. Well, her mother died when she was twelve years old. She was the oldest child, oldest girl in the family. She had two brothers older than her. She had a bunch of girls younger than she and a little boy about this big, Charles. She was head of the house, a girl twelve years old. She was a nice kid and I loved her. And her daddy gave her an old, big, flat-topped piano, an old antique piano and he gave her music lessons. We had to go out here, her house here; we had to go out here--I don't know whether the mailbox was on her side of the road or whether it was on this side, but we had to go



OSC: there to pick up mail. And we would go in that house when we would get our mail and that girl would set and play that old piano and we would sing. And her favorite piece was "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus." We had a lovely time and that girl has come to my mother's house many a time for a cup of sugar or some lard and my mother'd give it to her and we got along fine. And after his wife died, he went in to Washington and joined the Salvation Army. Of nights, we would be in our house some nights and hear that man coming short-cut through the woods singing hymns. Oh, he could sing! Oh, yes. No, I never had any trouble because when we lived where I'm talking about, for a long time if I didn't walk a mile to my grandmother's, we didn't have no Negro children to play with. I'd go in there and sing and sometimes I'd say to my sister, "We'd better go because Mama won't know what happened." But no, I never had any trouble, no, even though there was no school for me to go to. The one the whites went to was just a little old wooden one-room school about a mile down below where we lived. But we would walk up the road together. We'd get together coming from the pay school and walking the road with one fellow that lives right over here now, Wells. He had sisters and him and I never knew his age until the other day. A lady plows my ground and she came here last year and said, "You know John Wells?"

I said, "Yes, I know him."

She said, "He asked about you the other day. He wants to know how you are getting along."

I said, "My goodness, I thought that man would forget I ever lived."

She says, "No." This year she told me he was eighty-five, so he's around my age. But we walked the roads, his sisters and my sister and he, my sister and I. No trouble whatever. I'll tell you one thing, what I have found in life. I was telling somebody yesterday. Some of my race could have gone a

OSC: little farther because some of them segregated themselves. I know that some of them that hear this are not going to like it but it's just as true as I'm sitting here telling it. I know we were segregated to a certain extent, but some of them stayed in the background when they could have went forward. Understand what I mean?

JH: I sure do.

OSC: And although I had no school to go to, I have never grew up bitter and I guess one reason I didn't was because of the parents I had. My parents never settled down and sulked because we didn't have a school to go to. Why start disturbing? I don't go along with it. I'll tell you what I don't like, too, and I hope it goes while I'm here. I don't like, and this is not concerning you, I don't like the way the Southern Africans are treating the black Africans over there. I don't like it. I don't like it one bit. And if it hadn't been for them, that old colored man wouldn't have been over here. They're the ones that sold them. I always heard the Africans, I thought the black Africans, but the white Africans sold them.

JH: Both maybe.

OSC: I don't think the blacks had the opportunity to sell them. I think they may not know the truth about us today because the black Africans are not too good about socializing yet. But what I'm getting at now, we have lawmakers in Washington making laws to abide by. I don't like either the way the Southern Africans are doing to those people over there because they're human, the same as I am. But why would all them people get around there and violate the law hanging around that place? How can they tell the young generation how to live and how not to violate the law if they're going to violate it? I don't go along with it, and it's not because I don't want those blacks to have help because I've given money for them. I've given it through my church

OSC: and I've sent money, where is the place, Philadelphia somewhere. I sent money there early this time. I got a letter. They can get your name, you know, and I sent money. I have sent money there, I've sent in my church, and some years ago before I went to St. Lukes Church, I sat there one night and I saw those Africans on that TV. And I sat right in that chair and I cried. Flies all over them. One woman had twins and had to let one die because she couldn't feed both of them. And the message came to me like this: "I came to you hungry and you didn't feed me." So they were asking for twelve dollars a month. Now I'm a widow and I'm living on low income, but I couldn't get them on the phone to save my life. We went to a prayer group and one of the members, I talked to her about it. She said, "Well, I managed to get it and they<sup>will</sup> send me a letter and I'll let you know." So she did when she got the letter and I sat down, and it was in the summertime before I had to pay water bills. And I sat down and wrote them a check for the whole year, twelve dollars a month, and not to ask me for anything else. If I felt I could do it, I would do it. Well, I'm not saying this to brag but just telling you that I am for those people and I want them to get justice. But I don't like the congressmen and Mayor Barry and all of them going up there and getting arrested, violating the law when the children in Washington today are killing one another and doing everything, beating up--they're not setting no example.

JH: That's right, how can they learn.

OSC: They're not setting no example. Look at the paper yesterday. Carter's daughter, Amy Carter got arrested there. It's crazy.

JH: It doesn't make sense.

OSC: No, it doesn't and I hope it gets up because I want it to get up. I really do. I don't go along with that. I wasn't taught to violate or to do ugly for ugly.

JH: Do you think there's a change in the feeling among younger black people of a

JH: different generation, say two or three generations from your time, is there a change of attitude?

OSC: The only change I see what I don't like.

JH: That's what I mean.

OSC: Now when I grew up, if a white man called a Negro black, he'd want to knock his head off. And now hear this young generation that have got all this high education, now they want to be called black.

JH: I thought that's what everybody wanted. That's what I use.

OSC: I don't want it because I don't like it. I mentioned that in my church one Sunday morning. One of the men in the Sunday School called me and wanted to know if I would tell him how it was in the black church and also how come I came in the white church. Now that's the second white church I've been. And then there was a Japanese boy there and he wanted to know from him and there was a girl there that was Korean but he thought she was Filipino but I knew she wasn't Filipino. I've seen too many Filipinos, but I didn't question that. So I was the first one he called on and he wanted to know about the black. I said, "With all due respect to you, I don't like the name 'black.' The first thing, I'm not black and I don't like that name but I'm proud to be a Negro." That's what I told him. And then he wanted to know how did I feel when I went in a white church. I said, "I'll tell you how I feel. This is a church and I felt when I went in the church that I was coming in to walk with my sisters and brothers in Christ. That's the way I feel about it." And one of the ladies who turned to me--she was sitting up there--she said, "I think that's the way we all should feel."

Well, I'll tell you the truth. In either of the white churches I've been in, as far as actions, I wouldn't know that I wasn't one of them because I'm treated that way. But this man wanted to know how it was in our church. I

OSC: told him about how it was in our church but I let him first know I didn't like the name "black" and didn't mean any harm towards him whatever. And then after everything was over, I went to him one day, I mean that same Sunday. I said, "Look, I don't want you to think I was trying to be nasty with you. But I ain't white and I'm honest." I said, "Right now if my daddy was living and he walked in here, you wouldn't know whether he was one of you-all. Now why should I want to be called black?" And that picture right there of my mother is what it is. You're making it up in brown, you know.

JH: Yes, the pictures you showed me.

OSC: And my daddy worked for a person one time that thought he was white, didn't know he was colored. But anyhow, that don't matter but I just don't like the word "black."

JH: Is it just your generation because those of us who--

OSC: As far as that is concerned, not meaning any harm at all, do you see any really white people?

JH: Everybody's all shades.

OSC: You're not white.

JH: No.

OSC: I was in the choir over there for a few years; this would be in And I sat up there in that choir and that congregation was all colors, some of them pink, some of them almost were tan, and every kind of color. I'm a Negro and you're a Caucasian.

JH: That's right, the race, that's right.

OSC: I know my daddy said he went into a store one time--maybe you should cut that off because I don't want too much. . . .

(Interruption)

Now let me see, I told you how many of my sisters and brothers was in my

OSC: Sharper side.

JH: Now how about your own? Did you just have one sister?

OSC: I had one sister, Geneva.

JH: And is she gone now?

OSC: Geneva died. My husband wasn't dead a year when she died. She died the first day of March.

End Tape 1, Begin Tape 2

JH: You're going to have another garden? Does someone do it for you?

OSC: My garden is back here and I have some people from Georgia that puts this in. I let them have it to keep down the bushes and everything. Oh, my sister, I said, and she died the first day of March in 1980 and her husband is living today in Washington.

JH: What's his name?

OSC: She married a Young and his name is Samuel P. Young.

JH: Where is he from, do you think?

OSC: He was reared in Washington but his daddy's people were from the South. I can see they have a whole lot of Indian blood in them.

JH: Did you know any of the Robinsons in Centreville, Mrs. Robinson?

OSC: No.

JH: Because their ancestry is Indian from, in fact, the James River area.

OSC: Is that right? Maybe some of the same Indians now that I know. And the Robinson I knew is down below here. My sister had one daughter, Fredericka, and she's married to a Dale. And she lives in Albuquerque. There's my sister there as a kid when she was little. That's her here again when she was little. That's her husband right there.

JH: And they live in Albuquerque?

OSC: Albuquerque. My sister was a psychiatrist.

JH: You mean your sister's daughter?

OSC: My sister's daughter is a psychiatrist and her name is Fredericka Daly.

She is a psychiatrist and works in a veterans hospital there, but she works for the Out-Patient.

JH: And you have a newpew? Is that on your husband's side?

OSC: All my nephews are--there's my mother's sister.

JH: Oh, boy, does she look like an Indian!

OSC: Helen was her name.

JH: Helen, look at her long hair.

OSC: But, you know, we don't have that much Indian blood in us when you think about it. but that old Kizzia was just a great character. She was a great-grandmother to my grandmother.

JH: So that's your great-great-great. Where did Mr. Costley work? Your first husband worked for Chester--

OSC: He worked in Washington. He worked for People's Drugstore for years until his wife, till Doctor's wife--you see, Doctor owned three drugstores at one time. Then he had to cooperate. He worked until Doctor's wife was taken ill and then he asked him if he'd go to the home and drive for her. So he worked there until she died and then when she died, then he went in the Government.

JH: And you say he died in '81?

OSC: '80. He died the 28th day of April, 1980. There's my sister when she was in high school.

JH: Oh, you have some wonderful pictures.

OSC: There's a picture of my grandmother but I don't like that one too well.

JH: Which grandmother?

OSC: This one, Grandmother Boston, but that one was taken from a picture that was

OSC: colored so I guess that's the reason. There's the builder. I don't mean that is Daniel. This is Henry that's Daniel's son.

JH: So Daniel would have been his grandfather?

OSC: Yes.

JH: And where is this log building?

OSC: That was taken up in Massachusetts. I don't remember what it was. That's Mama's nephew. That's me. Isn't that something? A little old cousin came here, second cousin. He was taking that picture and I didn't even know he had taken it until he brought it to me.

JH: How long ago was it taken?

OSC: It was taken, let's see, about six years ago.

JH: And who is that a picture of?

OSC: That's my dad. I was looking for Dad's mother, too. That's me. There's the family. That's my dad, that's my mama, that's my sister and me, all sitting pretty. That's his mama's home.

JH: Was your first husband involved in World War II in any way?

OSC: No, he was too old for World War II. There's Fredericka. That's what she majored in in Howard University. She was here Christmas. I was down in '83 and she came up here Christmas in '84.

Mama had two brothers. Her oldest brother was Harvey. I think William Harvey Boston. And then she had her sister--I showed you her long hair. Her name was Helen.

JH: And who did Helen marry?

OSC: Helen had three husbands. The last husband she had was a Hackett. Then Mama's younger brother was named Lorin. He died in '58 and my mother died in '63. Mama was the baby. died in 1960.

JH: Did the Bostons have property in Falls Church or was that just the Footes?



OSC: Footes. You know where Church Mill Road is on 193?

JH: Yes.

OSC: The Bostons had property, leaving Church Mill Road that property right there where they're building all those great big houses, that was Grandfather's property.

JH: Don't you wish you had it now?

OSC: No, I don't. I wouldn't get none of it no way. No, I don't wish I had it. It's too much, you know, to own all that.

JH: You've lived on this piece of property how long now?

OSC: I've lived here, other than living in Washington, ever since 1921. Not right in this house because we didn't come in this house until 1955.

JH: You're an old settler then in this area? You've seen a lot of changes, haven't you?

OSC: I've seen a lot of that.

JH: Too much happening.

OSC: Too many buildings. It's making everything so expensive and what started expensive first too was land, the land taxes where people had great big farms. And I'll tell you another thing. The farmers didn't pay their help what they could and the help left here. That had a lot to do with it. The help went where they could get more money. That had a lot to do with these farms going down. If they'd paid the help, they would still have it, you see, but they didn't want to pay their help nothing.

JH: Was your family ever involved in growing vegetables and selling them in Washington?

OSC: My dad had a truck garden as long as he was able and also my daddy was a blacksmith. He shod horses for Madeira School. I knew the lady--

JH: Did you know the lady who started the school?

OSC: No. I have seen her, Mrs. Wing. I've seen her because she joined the N.A.A.C.P.

/National Association for the Advancement of Colored People/ and she used to go to the N.A.A.C.P. meetings. She was a lifetime member of the N.A.A.C.P.

Yes, I saw her, never talked with her because there was always a crowd there.

JH: Where did you used to have to go to get groceries? A small store in the area? Did you go back over to Colvin Run?

OSC: No, no. There was a little old small store at Spring Hill. But my daddy used to buy, by going to Washington, he used a stand on P Street Market. And going to Washington, you see they bought things in Washington. But I can remember when my daddy used to go to Colvin Run and carry corn, carry corn and wheat and have it ground for his meal, I mean for flour and cornmeal in the winter.

JH: Was that when Sam Millard was operating the mill?

OSC: Yes.

JH: Did you know any of the Millards?

OSC: Only seeing them, you know, just to see them. I never went up there too much.

JH: Was Mark Cockrill's Store there then?

OSC: Yes. I've been right in Mark Cockrill's Store more than once, lots of times.

JH: For candy?

OSC: No, we used to go there and get yard goods. He used to sell beautiful yard goods, you know, cotton things to make house dresses and things.

JH: Did you know any of the other people in Colvin Run very well?

OSC: No.

JH: Did you ever know the Honesty family in that area?

OSC: Honesty? I knew a younger group of Honestys.

JH: Did you know Polomus Honesty?

OSC: Oh, yes.

JH: Maybe you can tell me, did he have a speech impediment? I've heard him on a recording and it's hard to understand him.

OSC: He did.

JH: Was he born that way?

OSC: I guess he was.

JH: Because I heard a recording and I had trouble.

OSC: Yes. Now he had two brothers, David lived in Vienna. David died two years ago. David was a wonderful person, golly, he was a nice man. And the other fellow, I think he was older. He had a sister, too, but I wasn't around his sister much. She was buried out here at Pleasant Grove one third Sunday, I don't know whether it was December or when it was. Oh, I think it snowed the most I've ever seen. I wasn't at the funeral. I didn't know her personally. I didn't know her well to go. You know, when I was a little girl in the Ardwick Corners section--you see, Ardwick Corners is right in this section off Spring Hill Road and the Shiloh Baptist Church there--people didn't have no place to go. There wasn't nothing to go to years back. I don't care who died, if I was free I'd go to the funeral and you'd meet some people that were new. But after I got older, I learned better than that.

JH: Did you go to every funeral?

OSC: No. Sometimes you'd wish you didn't have to go to some it was so sad, you know.

JH: Did you go to church mid-week? Did they have like a Wednesday night service?

OSC: No, just Sunday. I went to Gunnels Chapel until we moved to Pleasant Grove. I'll tell you, Gunnels Chapel, we had a Sunday School there and Mrs. Priscilla Paine was the teacher. Oh, she was a wonderful woman. She would have a lawn party on her lawn to raise money to buy ice cream for our picnic and we'd go down to what they called Rattlesnake -- It's a place down back over there

OSC: off 193 that's called the Rattlesnake something or other and Rattlesnake Spring. There's a spring back there and that's where we'd go, lovely place to go to have a picnic.

JH: Was it close to Great Falls?

OSC: No, it's farther back.

JH: Farther back toward McLean?

OSC: Yes, right off 193. And when Christmas come, she would have a Christmas tree and give the children little gifts off the Christmas tree.

JH: You have a good memory for that.

OSC: She was a lovely little lady.

JH: Did you have family traditions that you can remember or were there celebrations that you would have?

OSC: No.

JH: Did you have a birthday cake when someone had a birthday?

OSC: Oh, yes, we'd do things. Mother would make us cakes, you know. Now in '71 I had a family reunion here.

JH: How many came?

OSC: Oh, I can't tell you. Quite a few. We had some old people.

JH: Do you have pictures?

OSC: No, we didn't take any pictures. We had old people here, Mama's first cousins and a lot like that of old people. And one of my cousins in Washington, she said, "I think that's the most remarkable thing you ever did. Our family has never had a family reunion."

JH: Oh, that was wonderful. Did everybody bring food?

OSC: No.

JH: You cooked it all?

OSC: Wait a minute. My sister, the one I was telling you about, she brought a ham.

OSC: My first cousin, she was the first one I told I was going to have it, and she said, "I'm going to cook a big turkey."

I said, "I thought I was having it."

She said, "Otrich, it's in your house and you're going to have enough to do without--" So sure enough, I had roast of venison that somebody had given me and I roasted that. We had the venison, we had the turkey, and we had the baked ham. And my husband, that husband, we had all the vegetables out there and early that morning I got up and made a bunch of lemon pies. That's my favorite, lemon cream pie. I love lemon cream pie. And I had one cousin that came, a little over two years older than I--a lot of them have died now since that, you know. And she said to me, "You know, I used to hear you say you worked at the Danish Row Cafe and made lemon pies. I used to doubt it." She got one of those lemon pies. She called me later and said, "You didn't tell a tale. That was the best lemon pie." Yes, I made lemon pies.

JH: When did you work at that cafe, if I may interrupt? You called it the Danish Row?

OSC: I tell you, the Danish Row Cafe--

JH: In Washington?

OSC: I was living out here and taken real sick and went in to Washington. I wanted to go to a hospital and my husband wouldn't take me. That was my Jack. He wouldn't take me to the hospital. I stopped on M Street where a niece was living and asked her if there was a room there vacant, if they'd got a room. Well, I was sick there a month and then I taking scarlet fever.

JH: Oh, no! What year would that have been?

OSC: '29 I think. And then of course he came home and got my mother and everybody went out of that house, the owners and everything went out of that house and looked for a place with others. I guess they knew where they were going to go.

JH: You were quarantined?

OSC: Yes. And my husband said to my mother, "I know it's going to be tough but I'm not going to leave her there because if anything happened to her, I'd never forgive myself." He'd lost one wife and his baby. So he stayed and when the quarantine was lifted, he went down to I guess the District Building, some place. You know, he went down and they examined him every day and he went on back to work, working at the dairy. And one morning after I was well, one of the girls that was living there--this lady that had the house, she had two sisters that were single that lived there. They had a room together. And she says to me, "Otrich, I've got a job for you."

I said, "You've got a job for me doing what?"

"Down to the cafe," she said, "making rolls."

I said, "I've never made a whole lot of rolls."

She said, "You've going to make them now because I've told everybody."

JH: Told them you could. (laughter)

OSC: So I told my husband and he told me, "You're not going." He never wanted me to work. "No, you're not going." He had to be at work at six o'clock and I had to be at eight and I got ready and went and when he come back, I'd gotten home.

JH: You were pretty independent, weren't you?

OSC: Well, listen--

JH: You wanted something to do.

OSC: Well, the main thing was, he had give up his job for me. Understand?

JH: Yes.

OSC: And that had put him in a little hole, I would say. If you lose your work money every week, you know what it is. So I just went on to work.

JH: You wanted to help.

OSC: And I was taking care of Otrich. I could have what I wanted for myself and didn't bother him, you see.

JH: You were home before he was.

OSC: Yes, I was home when he got home. When he got home I'd been to work and got home. (laughter)

JH: So how long did you work there?

OSC: I worked there about seven years.

JH: I'll bet they missed you when you left.

OSC: Well, I'll tell you what happened. The whole thing closed up shortly after I left there. They were Danish and those two sisters would get in that kitchen sometimes and you'd think they were going to fight, raising sin. And we would say, "Oh, they're cussing us out" because we didn't know what they were saying. So the older one fussed so at the young one that she pulled out of the business. She went and pulled out and got herself a candy shop somewhere. I just don't know where. Well, this older one, she was nice in a way but when she walked in that door, come in the kitchen in the morning, you knew something was wrong sometimes. And it was during the time of the Depression when I quit. We had two girls working there and when the Depression come up of course, she cut one out. I was supposed to be pastry cook, but when anyone come in for a salad, if the second cook couldn't do it, why they'd look for me to do it. I was making sandwiches and everything. So she went in there one morning and she looked in the refrigerator and there was a half of a grapefruit in there that hadn't been used. Well, what she used to do, she'd take grapefruit and she had those little things that you go in for melons and make little balls and would make cocktails out of it, you know. Well, she'd come in wrong that morning, so she said something about this grapefruit being there. And I said,

OSC: "Well, I realize Miss Sorenson, that it should have been done but I haven't had time to do it." So she kept on jawing. So I said, "You must realize at one time you had two girls here. Now I'm the one to be doing all of this."

"I can get somebody else to do it." That's what she said.

So the busboy came out and there was a girl in there. I don't know where she was from, one of the waitresses and none of us liked her. And the busboy came out and he said, "You know what Miss Sorenson told old Betty?"

I said, "No."

She said she could get somebody else to come in and do the work you were doing. She said she would fire you. So you know what I did? I was just as cute as anything you want to see. I had taken care of all the rolls, baked the rolls and served and got everything straight, cleaned up my place where I worked and if Charity said, "Why don't you get on out here?" I said, "You mind your business. I'm taking care of mine." I sat down and ate my lunch and cleaned everything up just like I always did and walked straight on in the place where she was cashier and I said, "Look, you can give me my money because I quit."

"Quit?" (laughter)

JH: You scared her.

OSC: The beautiful part, after her sister left I had the keys to the place and I come in early and opened up.

JH: So you didn't quit?

OSC: Yes, I did. So anyhow, she was sitting here and where I dressed there was a little closet back here. She was nice when she wanted to be because the men and all had the same closet. And she come to me one day and said, "You shouldn't



OSC: have to change in there. Come on in here." She had good qualities but sometimes she just was ornery and nasty. So anyhow, I told her, "Yes, I'm quitting ." I said, "Miss Sorenson, I've worked here seven years and you act like you're not satisfied." I said, "And another thing, if I would report you, you're not paying me as much money as you should pay me anyhow. You know that." What was that under Roosevelt? Some kind of thing under Roosevelt?

JH: I don't know.

OSC: They had to pay so much.

JH: What did you make?

OSC: Ten dollars a week for working as a pastry cook. It wasn't nothing.

JH: How many hours a day?

OSC: Well, I would go in at eight and I was out at two. You see, after lunch I was gone. So anyhow, I went on and was dressing and I happened to think: oh, I've got to give her my key. So when I came out, she gave me my money. I didn't pay no attention to it, but she was slick. She paid me more money than what she had been paying. She was afraid I would report her. She thought I would report her, but I wouldn't have done that. But anyhow, when I walked out I said, "Well, Miss Sorenson, here's your key. I hope you enjoy getting up early tomorrow" and walked right out. (laughter) I walked right out.

JH: And did you work after that?

OSC: No. I didn't work any more until 1951 when we were getting ready to build this house I went to work for Mrs. Patteson. Other than I worked at home. You know when the corded bags were in style?

JH: Yes.

OSC: I made corded bags like the devil.

JH: You made them at home?

OSC: Yes. I'd go in to Washington and buy the material and come out and crochet

OSC: them and made them and sold them.

JH: Have you got any left that you can show me?

OSC: The only one that I've got that's left is about worn out that I made. I'll show it to you but I kept it just because I made it. I guess I'll throw it away one of these days. A lady told me, "You ought to start making them again. All you've got to do is come out with one and then everybody will want one." There it is.

JH: Oh, my goodness, you made that<sup>i</sup> purse. So is this crocheted?

OSC: Yes.

JH: And you make all these circles?

OSC: Make the circles and put them together.

JH: And then you add the lining.

OSC: And then I add the lining. See what I did here to pull that?

JH: Yes, you attached that little pull to the zipper.

OSC: And I had a hat made like it and I gave the hat away.

JH: You made the doilies on your chairs?

OSC: Oh, yes. There's my change purse but I pulled it away from there. I had both circles.

JH: That's where you attached the zipper. This is coming loose over here.

OSC: Yes because I pulled it away from that. This looks better than any of them.

JH: Would you sell them just to individuals or to a store?

OSC: I sold them to individuals. They saw them and they wanted one.

JH: How much did you charge for them?

OSC: Well, I guess I didn't charge what I should, seventeen or eighteen dollars.

JH: All that work. How much time do you think it takes to make one?

OSC: I couldn't say now it's been so long.

JH: That's good size.

OSC: Well, I'll tell you one thing, you don't want to make them too big now if you're going to walk the streets in Washington because they'll pull it away from you. You see how funny I am how I covered that. Where I buy things I'll get a box right at the store and that allows me a change. I think a friend of mine still has hers just like new.

JH: They don't wear out. Can you think of any--you know I called you that first time and asked you and you said none of your family would have known anything about slave hiring time.

OSC: No.

JH: Did you know your grandmother?

OSC: I knew both of my grandmothers. I knew one very well.

JH: When your great-grandparents were living, did you know any of them?

OSC: I knew one of them.

JH: Which one did you know?

OSC: That was Helen that was a sister to her, my mother's grandmother. Yes, I knew her.

JH: Did she ever talk to you about--

OSC: No, she never did because I was small. When she died I was only eight years old. She died at eighty-five and I was eight years old. My great-grandmother and she was eighty-five when she died, Grandma. But my Grandmother Boston was eighty-seven when she died.

JH: Isn't that wonderful! You have a family of longevity there.

OSC: Yes, one uncle on my daddy's side or was it the other. One or the other was almost ninety when he died.

JH: Now you've told me so many names but tell me again the name of your grandmother above your mantle here.

OSC: Her name was Annie Maria. She was a Carter before she married. She was a

OSC: Sharper.

JH: She married a Sharper.

OSC: That's my father's mother and my father's father was named Samuel Loti Sharper.

JH: I know I have all that down but I didn't want to call her by the wrong name. That's a wonderful picture you have.

OSC: Yes, I like it. Mother had that made for my dad, and then when I wanted a little one--I have little ones but then I wanted a little one, so I wanted to have one made. She said, "No, don't put your money in this. It's so expensive now. I'll give you that one because you'll be living with yours." She gave both of us one.

JH: Tell me about your etagere there, or your cabinet? Did that belong to your father's family?

OSC: No, my second husband's family. Her name was Mary Webb before she married and she married a Costley. And his daddy died when he was about eight years old and then she married a Hackett. It's a beautiful piece.

JH: Are you aware of any other buildings that Daniel Sharper was involved with?

OSC: No, nothing other than the one over there. I don't know whether he built that or not. That house over there was a log house and it had four rooms.

JH: Where was that?

OSC: You passed the road where you go down to it.

JH: Is it called Old Tolson Mill Road?

OSC: Mill Road, yes, down in there, and that property right at Belle View and the corner then in Tolson, that was his property. And a little piece was across the road. Yes, the road comes and splits it, you know. Yes, that was thirty-four acres he had. Then my Grandfather Samuel Sharper, he came beyond Belle View Road, adjoining the piece that was over on the road that was Gus' and he

OSC: came and he bought twenty acres in there.

JH: You had quite a bit of land through here.

OSC: Yes, and Uncle Howard--my husband's brother bought Uncle Howard's part which is nearly five acres and gave it to me, and my daddy gave me the nearly five acres on towards, down on Old Bulls Hill that was his. So I couldn't keep the taxes up on all of them, you know, after my husband died. But they tell me that two doctors have houses on the one here on Belle View Road. One is right near the road, a brick house, and there's another one back in behind it there. But that was the most beautiful piece of land. I walked around that land up there and you can look all the way over here on Old Dominion. You can look all over Old Dominion. I wanted my husband to build over there and he said, "No way." The roads wasn't fixed then; they were just dirt roads. He says, "I have to go to work in the snow and everything and it's better to build right here." He did and then when he died I said, "Lord, he did, just like I wanted. a two-story house, and everything he did just worked out to be right. I don't know, it looked like he just knew what was going to be right. Because I wouldn't have wanted to have been--I was right near his sister. His sister was right there, and she was left like that in later years and went with her daughter in Vienna. But her son lived there a little over two years and then he died. And when my husband died, oh, he meant so much to me. I had my car and he'd get in and carry me where I wanted to go. He had his own but, you know, I wanted him to use my car. And then after he died, I kept it until '83 and then I sold it.

JH: So how do you get around now? Do people take you places?

OSC: You would be surprised. I have a cousin takes me to the store. You know Merle Monaghan?

JH: I know the name. I just know the name.

OSC: Well, he takes me to the doctor.

(End Side 1, Begin Side 2)

JH: . . . it's not there any more. Was it a very old church?

OSC: That's where my grandparents went to church until after the Civil War.

JH: Where was that church?

OSC: Where Little Bethel is, that brick house, that brick church.

JH: Oh, that's up on what's called <sup>Top side</sup> Tilton Road now?

OSC: Yes.

JH: Now during your time the name of that road's been changed, hasn't it?

OSC: Yes.

JH: What did it used to be called?

OSC: I think it was called Union Road. It might have been Union Church Road.

I don't know.

OSC:

JH: So did it burn down. ~~What~~ What happened, I knew the church brick split years ago and I had a minister came here to look over some of Pleasant Grove papers, which was our old church, to see what we should keep. And he told me, sitting at the table, dining room table there, he said, "Otrich, I don't know but I imagine your family went to old Union Church years ago."

And I said, "Yes, they did."

He said, "Well, you know--" he's a historian as far as the churches are concerned, Methodist churches. He's a Methodist minister, was; he's retired. And he said that the Southern people pulled out of old Union and built Andrew Chapel. And then there wasn't enough of the Northern and the colored people to hold the church, so that's why it was closed. So that's where my grandparents went. They went there when Papa's oldest brother was a baby. And her mother is buried in the burying ground there.

JH: Where is the burying ground?

OSC: There's a little burying ground back behind the church like and part of it's on the front like.

JH: The church that's there right now? The burying ground is there?

OSC: Yes, it's in there, and the part of it that's on the side of the church, that must have been in '62. They were taking up graves/putting in the little boxes. Now you mentioned Columbus; his mother's buried in there without a stone. And some of the people that knew him contacted him and asked him if he wanted-- they said, "We can rebury her but if you want to, we'll let you take it and bury her with your father." He was buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. So Columbus got the body and had his daddy's grave opened up and put it right on top of his daddy. And then the stone was put because they had never got their daddy's stone. Now that woman died way back years and years ago and everything was hard yet. And that day they had bought a stone for his wife, which I thought was wonderful.

But now, Grandmother Jenny, as they called her, but in here her name is Jane--I don't know why people can't call people by their right name.

JH: I know. They always had nicknames. Jenny was.

OSC: And I don't like it. Sure, Jenny Carter. And she was buried over there and there was four daughters and they could have put a stone there, but there's no stone there. The girl that I'm named after, my mother's sister whom my mother never knew, was buried there with no stone. Of course Grandpappy was paying for his place there and he couldn't afford it. But I told Mother, Mother was with me then because Mother died in '63 and this happened in '62 because my mother was sick then. And she was telling me about they were buried there and I said, "Oh, if I knew which was which, I'd take and run over to the place, but I had no way of knowing."

JH: So there are several unmarked graves without a stone?

OSC: Yes. Well, there is in a lot of cemeteries because there's a lot of them right over here in Pleasant Grove. They dump their people there and forget all about them.

JH: Is there a list somewhere where it says who's buried there?

OSC: We know who owned the lots and everything and I know some of the people that's buried in there but some of them I don't because, you see, it was way before my time and it's hard for me to know. But anyhow, you'd be surprised, my family, the Sharpers, took care of the cemetery, cleaned the church and everything for nothing and after they got so they couldn't do it, I called a group in here and formed a Cemetery Committee. I made a chairman, I made a secretary, and my husband there was treasurer. When he got so he wasn't able to look after it, they made me treasurer. I'm secretary-treasurer-chairman. Nobody else is doing nothing.

JH: There's no committee?

OSC: Nobody's doing nothing. They'll come in here when I call them but then, as I say, there's a lot of them that have got people that won't give you a dime to help with the cemetery. I can't understand people.

JH: I don't either. And this is the one over on Lewinsville Road?

OSC: Lewinsville Road, the Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Of course, you know, the woman bought and done everything there.

JH: What happened on that?

OSC: Well, the lady across the road, she was the one that heard and found they was tearing everything to pieces, and they contacted us. We was And they got onto her, too. I didn't go up there that day. I don't know why I didn't go but I understand some others went up there. And she said, "Well, what are they fussing about? It wasn't taken care of." That was none of her



OSC: business. That was none of her business at all. We were doing some things but there was some things that needed doing up there, paint and fixed the gutters up. You know the gutters were getting bad and we fixed them. But anyway, those people across, they found out what was wrong and they got what they called "Friends."

JH: To get in touch with each--

OSC: Yes and you'd be surprised what--now the Saturday before Mother's Day they had a sale up there, big sale, flower sale and they made over a thousand dollars. And then some lady down in McLean told them that whatever they made they would match it, so they matched it.

JH: Does the church now belong back to the--

OSC: It belongs to our church. It really belongs to our church but the people <sup>us</sup> across the road wantedus to donate the lot. I said, "No way." So anyhow, our church over there gave them what they call a 100-year lease.

JH: For a dollar a year or whatever?

OSC: No, they don't give nothing. They've just got the lease for 100 years. But I'll give it to them, the couple across the road really worked hard to keep it going.

JH: What is the age of that building? Do you know when it was built? After the turn of the century?

OSC: That church was built in 1896.

JH: And where was the school that you attended in that area? It wasn't in that building, was it?

OSC: It was down on Lewinsville Road. Swinks Mill Road run into it sharp and there was a colored man by the name of Odricks gave land for that school. And that school was built there. I heard, now I just read it in a little piece in the paper lately that some of the kids had got up at Fairfax that he built that

OSC: school. He was a carpenter. I was just reading about he built that school.  
And we went to that school.

JH: And the building is gone, I guess.

OSC: Oh, yes, it was torn down when the county built a brick school up above there on the same road. But we had a woman that taught a school over in Vienna. And that woman fought every way and the county went along with her and closed that school there. So then it was bought, someone bought it. Now they have a little integrated Baptist Church on there, a pretty little church there.

JH: Right where the school used to be?

OSC: Where the brick school used to be. Where the old school was, there's nothing.

JH: Well, I certainly have enjoyed talking with you today.

OSC: Well, I hope you got something that's going to be all right and nobody's going to jump on me with both feet.

JH: I don't think so. I think it's been so interesting and learning about your family and everything. We didn't touch much, there's a little part left if you wouldn't mind, about living here in the Great Falls area. What--

OSC: This is not Great Falls.

JH: I'm sorry, you're McLean, excuse me. The dividing line is right over here at Towlston Road.

OSC: At Towlston Road and up here farther it becomes part of Old Dominion. It's still McLean going up there. I don't know where the dividing line is.

JH: You can tell me when Old Dominion had a track on it, can't you? When was that?

OSC: Don't you know that?

JH: Oh, yes, I do know but what I mean is, did your family use the train to go in to Washington?

OSC: Oh, when they lived in McLean they did, yes.

JH: What station did you go to?

OSC: McLean.

JH: McLean Station? Was there Elkins, that was up near River Bend Road?

OSC: No. It's between Belle View and where you go into Great Falls.

JH: And then there was Peacock Station?

OSC: Yes, Peacock Station. And I think Elkins and Peacock were the only ones above here.

JH: That was the last one before it went out to the park? Was there a station called Jackson's?

OSC: Below.

JH: Way down close <sup>the</sup> to/bridge?

OSC: No, it was down this way. Oh, there was a bridge down there, too, a little bridge. Jackson's and Hardcastle was close together. Hardcastle, I wondered why they didn't name Swinks Mill Road Hardcastle Road because Hardcastles had a station there and Hardcastle had a house up on the hill there. And Jackson Station was up farther coming this way. I saw the name of this station that was right here before you get to Belle View on a little map last night. Now I can't think of it. I don't know why the property was named Belle View Place there. They named it Belle View Place and it would be hard to change now because the people have their address Belle View Place and they would fight it changing it, I'm sure. Here's a map right here. Here's the girl.

JH: Oh, when you were interviewed for that article?

OSC: Yes, but they messed it up some.

JH: Oh, did they?

OSC: Oh, yes. Well, I'll tell you what he did. He did the wrong thing. He come here and got things here and went somewhere else and got things and somebody

OSC: got them wrong. Now they've taken my picture, the last one, and they were going to bring me a picture and I never seen no picture. Prospect Hill. They've got Belle View Place where the Prospect Hill station was and why they didn't name that property Prospect Station.

JH: Was there ever a house named Prospect Hill or just the whole area?

OSC: I'll tell you, no, it was a station there and they tell me some years ago it was a post office up this way.

JH: That's right.

OSC: Now I don't know why they didn't use that--

JH: They should have. Well, I always wondered. Now do you know Manning Gasch?

OSC: Yes.

JH: Does he live approximately in the Prospect Hill area?

OSC: No, he lives right on Route 193. After you go Belle View Road to the end and turn left, the first house you get to on the left-hand side.

JH: So Prospect Hill though was on Georgetown Pike?

OSC: No.

JH: It has it right here.

OSC: Well, they say Georgetown Pike. It's wrong. I don't know how it was called Prospect Hill and Georgetown Pike. There might be something there concerning Station that, but Prospect Hill was right here on Old Dominion because I know.

JH: It probably took the name from the area above it.

OSC: It was something probably south but I know--

JH: A long time ago, even in the early 1800's, there was a Prospect Hill Post Office.

OSC: Well, it must have been right in here. That's what I was told. Of course I was too young to know, you know.

JH: Well, the date of this map is 1879.

OSC: I know that.

JH: So that's when Benjamin Mackel was there.

OSC: But here was General W. W. Mackel. Well, that was his place there and he had a son named Benjamin. I don't know what this Benjamin is other than he had a brother named Benjamin. I don't know.

JH: And that was the location of the church?

OSC: No, honey, that was a house there.

JH: But the church was in through here somewhere, in the Langley area.

OSC: That was a Faulkner lived down there. I've heard of him. I think he was a constable. Am I pronouncing it right?

OSC:

JH: Faulkner, yes. /Here's an Ellis. Cat., a Catholic Ellis.

JH: This is before there was any railroad. There was before the Old Dominion.

OSC: I understand because the railroad was finished in 1906, I understand.

JH: That's right. And how long was it open, till '34? Or was it that long?

OSC: Was it '34 or '35. I can't remember.

JH: Here's Odricks over here.

OSC: That ain't spelled like Odricks. There's two "d's" in that. They only spell it with one "d."

JH: There's always misspellings with names on maps.

OSC: Here's a D. W. Gunnel and there's an O. Gunnel.

JH: An Albert Gunnel, lots of Gunnels.

OSC: Tom Carper.

JH: Now this is Belle View Road right here, I think. Yes, this is Belle View Road. This is your road right here and Thomas Carper had a house--

OSC: There's Old Union, there's the church, there's Old Union Church.

JH: It sure is, that's it right there.

OSC: Now you know one thing, this is the first time I've looked at this thing like this. The kids got that. They went to Fairfax and got that.

JH: There it is.

OSC: There's Old Union Church.

JH: Isn't that John Jackson, or not? Oh, Iden.

OSC: Yes, Idens ived up in there, that's right.

JH: Here's Jackson right here. Oh, no, that's W. Jackson.

OSC: That's William N. Jackson. There's a store there.

JH: Oh, at the corner of Towlston Road and Leesburg Pike? It looks like it, doesn't it?

OSC: Yes, but it looks like to me. Well, let me see. There's a corner there, it's the corner of Olivers. There used to be a lot of Olivers there.

JH: Yes, there's still an Oliver about that same place on Towlston Road. That goes on up to Peacock. So this is what's Towlston Road and here's Belle View Road right there. It sure is.

OSC: Albert Henderson.

JH: Who's that? Henderson.

OSC: ~~H~~enderson had a wife named Emma Henderson. They owned there. No, this can't be Belle View Road because that would be wrong. No, it's not Belle View Road.

JH: It is at this end because Thomas Carper was right on Belle View Road. And this is Georgetown Pike. So where Old Dominion--

OSC: There's something wrong here because you know where Henderson was, way over almost near Route 7, over on Tolson Mill Road. That's where he was and here's 7.

JH: You see, this is 7 right here. No, right there's 7. You see, this is over a hundred years ago map so people have moved in and--

OSC: Another thing, at that time Elkins Road wasn't there then.

JH: Well, I've seen a map of it and it was pretty early. It has John Jackson on it.

OSC: Yes?

JH: Yes. I'll see if I can get you a copy of that. I think it was made--maybe the extension of it wasn't made yet by '78 but I've seen it.

OSC: There's Wolf Trap.

JH: Creek, yes.

(Interruption for telephone)

OSC: I tell you, these were Laura Jackson's children, Mary and Eugene. These were--this woman's husband was named Josh and Josh was Richard Jackson's brother. Richard Jackson had a brother, Josh, he had a sister, Annie Brooks. She was a Jackson, married a Brooks. And you see, Grandmother Jackson's maiden name was Johnson. You see, I've kept down things. Now you see, I've got Kizzia's patent.

JH: I'll see if I can look something up on that. But you don't know where John Jackson came from?

OSC: No, I do not. I know he worked or drove--who did he drive for? I had an aunt-in-law told me about somebody he drove for.

JH: He moved cattle?

OSC: No. He drove one of these fancy carriages for somebody.

JH: Oh, he drove the horses?

OSC: Yes, he drove one of these fancy carriages. One of those he had a uniform on, I was told.

JH: I wonder if it was the Jackson family?

OSC: No, it wasn't a Jackson.

JH: No one ever said?

OSC: Yes, I was told and I'm trying to think now whether it was Gunnel. You see, it was Gunnels lived over here, too, right over in this section. On the corner section a family of the Gunnels lived there. I'd be afraid to say but it wasn't Jacksons. This aunt-in-law of mine, who was Uncle Lewin's wife, she was the one that told me about this.

JH: So he drove a carriage?

OSC: He drove a carriage for the people somewhere for some time. And he must have been well thought of because he stayed there and he was in a uniform. They used to have those in Washington when I was a little girl.

JH: You'd see them go by?

OSC: Yes, they had them in Washington.

JH: All dressed up?

OSC: And when I was in Washington in 1909 I went and stayed one semester with my aunt, my mother's sister.

JH: What was her name?

OSC: Helen Boston, but she was Helen Hackett then. Not Helen Hackett; she was Helen ~~Hawkins~~ then.

JH: The one who married three times?

OSC: Yes, she was Hawkins. I used to see the people then with the electric cars. They didn't have no gasoline cars back then in 1910. They had electric cars, little old things that come out like this. You'd see the handle like this, pull out the handle.

JH: Did you ride the trolley in town?

OSC: Oh, yes. Yes, I rode the trolley in town even after--

JH: The horse-drawn trolley?

OSC: Yes, they had them but not in my time.



JH: That was before your time?

OSC: Yes. If they had them, it was before I was old enough to get around and know it. They may have had them. But Laura was Joshua's wife. This little boy that works at the Archives Building, he was trying to get the history on this family. You see, he's a Jackson. So I was trying to get it and I knew of Eugene, I heard my husband talk with Eugene, and then his sister said "He had a daughter named Mary too because I have played with her." So that's where I got the Mary. So one of these days I'm going to try to get it from him, a little bit for Mary.

JH: That's good information that you're able to remember all this.

OSC: I talked with him not long ago and he told somebody then in Washington he had an aunt out here that had the wonderfulest mind. She could think of everything. But a lot of the stuff I have I have put down when times went on. I wish I had asked my people more. I didn't ask them nothing. I wish I had asked them some things. I could have had wonderful history on that family if I had asked them, you know. But you know you seem to think that your people are going to live always. Isn't it funny? Yes, you don't think about that. All you thinking about is that mama and that dad while they're living. You don't think about--

JH: You said your mama didn't talk much to you about her--

OSC: About things like I was telling you about. A lot of people would talk and tell all the, I would call them "dirty little things" that Mama never talked about. Now just like my daddy. Now my daddy's grandfather was an Adams, white, and he never talked it but I got it somewhere else. I don't know what his first name was or nothing. I understand--I got this from a little boy down, my cousin--well, he's a distant cousin but you know some of your distant cousins can be closer than your real, you know, your first cousins. And we talk about every week and he's been paralyzed and gets around very badly. He has had a

OSC: couple of operations for cancer. He lives alone and he buried a sister and a brother, his baby sister and baby brother that he had. But he called me the other day and he has a piece of paper that he got out of the--he copied it out of a book that his son bought from Fairfax Library. And he said to me, "I know who your Grandmother Boston's father was."

I said, "You know what?"

"Oh, sure, I've got it right here in black and white, old James N. Jackson was." Then he told me, he said it was in there about four of them that had white daddies.

JH: I wonder what book he found that in.

OSC: It was in the library in Fairfax. He got it from a book in the library at Fairfax, but I don't know what book it was.

JH: Oh, I wonder, too.

OSC: So I told him to ask his son. His son lives over in Camp Springs in Maryland and he said he would ask him when he sees him. You have to take it back, you know, a library book. But I'd love to see that.

JH: Yes, copy the pages or something.

OSC: Yes. Well, he copied that down and he said, "I can't find the piece of paper that had the Sharpers in it." Well, they have a mistake in here because they have it in this book that there were three Sharper women married three Henderson brothers. Now that is that Albert Henderson's children but it wasn't true. It was three Sharper men married the daughters. Now they've got it mixed up in there.

JH: Well, you straightened that out, didn't you, in the Historical Society book?

OSC: Maybe I did.

JH: I believe they said it had been printed the other way and you said that was wrong.

OSC: Yes. But anyhow, this little third cousin went up there looking up everything but she still didn't find what she wanted on her grandmother's side, which is one of Papa's nieces and that was a Lucas. I seen in a little piece of paper last night, looking at some of those papers, that it was Jesse Lucas bought a piece of ground up there in Great Falls. Now Jesse Lucas was a son of Jesse Lucas and Amanda Lucas and they were in the Dranesville area.

JH: But you yourself didn't know any of the people who lived up in there? You didn't know the Ellises or the Sims?

OSC: I have seen the Ellises but I didn't know too much about them. We had one Ellis man that cut our cemetery over here, Tom Ellis. Did you know of a Tom Ellis?

JH: I don't know whether he was related--

OSC: Yes, he was brother to the rest. He was a brother to those others, I was told. And there was some Williamses that lived up on Seneca Road. There was some Williamses lived back up in there, and I don't know what the father was, you know, the old man, but I knew two of the sons. One was named Ace Williams and the other was named Jesse Williams. Jesse Williams, his family lived back up in here a while right behind us. And that family was a nice family, had a bunch of children, but those children didn't bother nobody. They were just nice and neighborly. And then Ace, his brother, he lived over on Trapp Road and he has three daughters. Two of them live on Trapp Road now. Their mama and daddy are dead, but two of them live there now and one of them lives on Lewinsville Road. I couldn't tell you what house it is. But now Ace had three lovely daughters, and the teacher that taught them at Oddrick's Corner roomed with my mother.

JH: What was her name?

her name was Grace Jackson but she came from Portsmouth.

Oh, she came up from Portsmouth?

What was she before she married Jackson? Willis, her name was Willis before she married Jackson.

Which Jackson did she marry?

I don't know because she married a Jackson in Portsmouth. That's where they lived.

It's a common name.

Or, yes, it is. And she told Mother that any time she gave those children a note or anything to go home to tell her father and mother what they needed for the school, she said she always would get it. And one of those girls was a nurse, the other one's a teacher, and the other one's taking up census.

Did you ever hear of an educator in Vienna named Louise Archer?

Well, that's a woman I didn't care too much for. She's the one that closed the Adrick's Corner School.

Because she had a school in Vienna?

Because the school was built over there and she fought to have the school built so they could send a bus and drag the children over there. That was the order to get that big school. Well, one thing about it, she didn't live after she got the school. She's dead, as you know, but they'd given her a name about getting the school but she got it in a way--I didn't like it. Now would you appreciate it?

Going to ride a bus very far.

Only--I had never gone to that brick school but that's the only school that I ever had to go to, you know.

Did it down?

Sold. It was the property that was sold.

JH: Was the building moved from there?

OSC: I don't know what they did about that building. I should know and still I don't know. I don't know whether the church that bought it. No, I guess they must have tore it down. I don't remember.

END OF INTERVIEW